WE CLAIM:

1. An antisense oligonucleotide derived from the sequence of a metabotropic glutamate receptor type 1 gene (mGluR1), wherein said oligonucleotide specifically binds to a portion of mRNA expressed from a gene encoding a mGluR1, or a splice variant thereof, and further wherein binding of said oligonucleotide to said mRNA is effective in decreasing the translation of said mRNA in a host cell expressing said gene.

2. An antisense oligonucleotide as in claim 1, wherein said sequence is any one of SEQ ID NO:1 to SEQ ID NO: 39.

3. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide has no more than 1 mismatch from the mRNA sequence to which it specifically binds.

4. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein at least one nucleotide phosphate of said oligonucleotide is substituted by a phosphorothioate, a methylphosphonate, or a C_{1-4} alkylphosphonate.

5. The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein the 3' or 5' nucleotide of which further comprises a substituted acridine.

6. A compound comprising a salt or a hydrate of the antisense oligonucleotide of claim 1.

7. A composition comprising the antisense oligonucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 6.

8. The composition of claim 7 further comprising a pharmaceutical excipient.

9. A method for treating a patient having a disorder related to an elevated glutamate level, said method comprising administering to said patient an antisense oligonucleotide hybridizing to a mRNA encoding metabotropic glutamate receptor type 1 gene ($mGluR_1$), or a splice variant thereof.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said antisense oligonucleotide is administered via an intrathecal, intravenous or subcutaneous route.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein said $mGluR_1$ is from a species excluding rat.

12. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein said $mGluR_1$ is human $mGluR_{1\alpha}$.

13. An oligonucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said $mGluR_1$ is from a species excluding rat.

14. An oligonucleotide according to claim 13, wherein said $mGluR_1$ is human $mGluR_{1\alpha}$.

15. The antisense oligonucleotide of any one of claims 1 to 6 comprising a nucleotide sequence having from 13 to 22 bases in length, and hybridizing to a portion of said mRNA 3 bases prior to the initiation codon of said gene and continuing to the stop codon of said gene.

16. The use of an antisense oligonucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 6, to treat chronic pain.

17. A use according to claim 16, wherein said pain is caused by injury or inflammation of a nerve.

18. A use according to claim 17, wherein said inflammation is caused by arthritis.

19. The use of an oligonucleotide according to claim 16 in combination with an opioid analgesic, to enhance effect of said opioid analgesic.